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Ray Hart

Original signed by
Curt Schmutte

Summary of the December 17, 1996 Public Workshop

Per your request, we have prepared a summary of the workshop. The combination CALFED and AB360 workshop was held on Tuesday, December 17, 1996 at the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove. The workshop began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 2:30 p.m. with just a 20-minute break.

The 100-plus attendees (sign-in sheets attached) seemed very interested in learning more about both the CALFED levee program and the implementation of AB360. The significant comments raised during the workshop focused on implementing the cost-sharing provisions of AB360, the ability to place habitat on existing Delta levees, seismic risk, boat wake impacts, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involvement, and applying for a Delta-wide "Safe Harbor" permit.

The presentations covering CALFED, levee associated habitat, and AB 360 were as follows:

- Introductory CALFED process overview and review of the CALFED System Integrity Program. (Steve Yaeger)
- Update on Levee and Channel Technical Team activities, which included a discussion on net long-term habitat development, seismic susceptibility, beneficial reuse, long-term subsidence control, levee prioritization, and recreation workplans. (Curt Schmutte)
- DWR/Department of Fish and Game discussion on how habitat can be developed on the levees in order to meet the AB 360 mandate for "net long-term habitat improvement." Specifically, staff explained how certain types of habitat can be planted on Delta levees without jeopardizing levee stability. (Kent Nelson of Central District and Peter Perrine and Frank Gray of DFG)
- DFG and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff presentation on the Safe Harbor Act, which allows groups or individuals to create endangered species habitat without the consequence of having to mitigate if the created habitat is destroyed at a later time. They presented several examples of

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implementation of the act and encouraged the group to think about how the act could be applied to increase habitat throughout the Delta region. (Gail Presley of DFG and Bill Lehman of USFWS)

- Presentation on the framework for the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team island prioritization. The group was informed that all islands throughout the Delta will receive baseline funding and that the technical team was focusing on a prioritization of all islands to determine the order in which islands will receive additional funding. (Ken Cassaday of Jones and Stokes Associates)
- Update on changes in the SB 34 program, specifically focusing on how the funds will be distributed and any additional information that the districts must include in their application packages. (Curt Schmutte and Dave Lawson of Central District)

Particularly noteworthy was the comment made by Dante John Nomellini, attorney and spokesperson for many Delta interests, near the end of the workshop. He stated that the Proposition 204 money (\$25 million) should be utilized immediately. He felt that the \$25 million should be spent in one year and the Department should push for additional funding through the Legislature.

If you have any questions regarding the presentations or the comments raised, please call me at 227-7567.